(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

One-rank-one pension scheme

928. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one-rank-one-pension scheme, aimed at bringing about equity amongst corresponding rank officers retiring from Armed Forces, has not been implemented fully;

(b) if so, which category and class of defence personnel still remain deprived of the benefits of the scheme; and

(c) how far the disparity in retirement benefits, like gratuity and pension payable to personnel retiring earlier than the cut off date (1996) still persists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) A Group of Ministers (GOM) was constituted to look into the issue of 'one rank one pension'. GOM did not recommend 'one rank one pension'.

(c) Recommendations of 5th Central Pay Commission (CPC) were implemented with effect from 1.1.1996. Differential in the pension of pre and post 1.1.1996 retirees exists because the 5th CPC did not recommend complete parity.

Rectification of defects in Arjun Tanks

929. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply to unstarred Question 3035 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th August, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the shortcomings pointed out during the trials of production version of Arjun Tanks in June, 2005, have since been rectified; and

(b) if so, by when the improved and acceptable version of the tank is likely to be brought out and inducted into the army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Necessary rectification and ruggedisation have been carried out. Full-fledged preparatory trials will be carried out in summer 2006.

(b) Production of Arjun Tank is continuing at Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Avadi as per production schedule. Tanks will be handed over to the Army after the trials in summer 2006.

Phone Tapping

†930. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meting of CEOs of all public and private telecom companies, was convened by Union Home Minister some time back;

(b) if so, the agenda of the meeting and decisions taken therein;

(c) number of telephone-tapping incidents involving private telephone companies; and

(d) names of the companies against which action has been taken so far and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Only one instance of unauthorized tapping of Shri Amar Singh, Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha, has come to the notice of the Government. The Delhi Police has registered a case in this regard and a charge sheet has also been filed in this case.

Tapping of Phones of Members of Parliament

931. SHRI ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received complaints from the Members of Parliament about the tapping of their telephones;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.